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Ecology of benthic microalgae

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Propositions for the Dissertation

Ecology of Benthic Microalgae

Community Dynamics of Estuarine Primary Producers in a Changing World

by

Friederike. G. Engel

1. Ecosystem engineers promote benthic microalgae productivity and biomass on intertidal flats.
2. Initial species composition and dispersal largely determine the fate of benthic microalgae community responses to climate change stressors.
3. Climate warming increases species turnover of benthic microalgae communities.
4. Potential climate change stressors disrupt community dynamics and alter biodiversity of benthic microalgae.
5. Benthic microalgae communities are complex systems that are susceptible to climate change.
6. Different measures of biodiversity can be affected differently by climate change stressors on relevant ecological time scales.
7. Experimental ecology is indispensable for understanding community dynamics in nature.
8. Biodiversity is fundamental for the functioning of our planet.
9. Little things make big things happen.
(Coach John Wooden)